

### REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-11, and 17-23 have been allowed. Claims 12, 15, and 16 stand rejected. Claim 13 is objected to.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claims 1, 3-11, and 17-23, and for the indication that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

For the purposes of expediting prosecution, claim 12 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 12 and claims 15-16, which depend from claim 12.

The amendment of claim 12 and cancellation of claim 13 are done without prejudice to reintroducing any material removed as a result of these actions. These actions are not to be considered a waiver or abandonment of any technology otherwise fully described in the application as filed.

### CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed. Should any other action be contemplated by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that he contact the undersigned at (408) 392-9250 to discuss the application.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or fees due in connection with this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2257 referencing docket no. M-15703 US.

**EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.  
EV 534 475 035 US**

Respectfully submitted,



Hugh H. Matsubayashi  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 43,779